

Leicester, Mass^{ts} Sunday
May 21, 1854.

Dear Miss Estlin.

Your last to me was on a slip of paper less than 3 inches square, (though upon that & the envelope you contrived to say much), but covered a long note to Miss Pugh which I despatched to her by mail within 30 minutes after getting it. You kindly permitted me to glance at it, - a privilege which I availed myself of rather sparingly & very hastily, - and would not have at all (knowing that the reserve with which one lady addresses another, even on ordinary topics, is not always to be understood by men), but that ^{your} the little slip to me, was nothing about your Father, & so very little about Pillsbury, that my strong desire to know more particulars overruled my first hesitation of mind about ⁱⁿ unfolding the pages meant for Miss Pugh. I was glad I ^{did} ~~had done~~ so; for I learned so many things relative to Pillsbury's illness at your house, - the fortnight's wretched struggling against his disease, - the fainting away, - the severe & painful illness - the ar day of your mental doubt whether he ~~might~~ would not speedily breathe his last - your satisfaction at discovering his truly religious & confident state of mind, - the nature ^{& amount} of your cares while hovering between his sick room & your father's, - and the devices to which you resorted to while away the weary hours of his convalescence; - all these, some of which I could not ^{otherwise} know at all & others only by way of generalising and inference, were very welcome, & afforded me much satisfaction; then, also, I got an idea of your dear Father's mental

and boldly state more particular and
entire than any I have formed before. — How
often I have thought of that expression of Pillsbury's
in his letter published in the Liberator, when
speaking of that kindness of your Father & yourself
to which he could do no adequate justice in his
words, — "The honour of Heaven is pledged for their
reward." It is indeed a strong expression, and in
his own nervous style. But it says all we can
say, or can ask, or wish, for you both, when we
think of your ^{more than} fatherly & sisterly care of our poor
sick brother, and when we strive to express some of
the admiration and affection we feel for you both.
Oh! I do trust your father may not have long
suffering to contend with in his last days; and I hope
that the sympathy, respect, & affection of many hearts
on both sides of the Atlantic may help to buoy him up
as he passes through these deep waters. — How much
his and your interest in our great cause has
mingled with our thoughts, have tinged all its
aspects, have contributed to renew our hope and
courage, I never can tell. — And when we come
to miss his cheering word, and feel that he is
no longer near us to counsel and aid us on,
it will be a great void that, to me, nothing, I
am sure, will ever fill. — I earnestly hope that
your various, & (some of them) extraordinary cares
may not exhaust all your remaining strength, and
leave us destitute of your arm too.

It always has a hearty welcome at 21 Cornhill.
 - And this brings me back to the thought of what pains
 your good father took, and you, to establish it &
 set it agoing, and what efforts and labour you
 have expended ^{upon} it since to sustain it and keep up
 its high and worthy character. I remember, that he
 left home and went to Ireland, - taking an unusual
 journey for him, & doubtless a fatiguing one, - in order
 to see Mr. Webb, and confer with him as to the arrange-
 ments necessary for the starting of the paper. Surely,
 but for him and you, we never should have had the
 "Advocate". Modestly, but firmly, - with reason,
 and logic, and facts, & every worthy auxiliary on its
 side, - it has contended for the Good Cause, & may
 God evermore bless all of you, who brought it into
 being, and who have made it a most efficient means
 of helping the work of freedom. - Indeed it seems
 to me that you and your Father have been connected
 with - I might almost say have originated - about
 every thing of an effective sort which has been done in
 England for our cause during the last ten years.
 But I know this will be of doubtful acceptance to
 you, and I forbear. I meant only to have
 spoken of your father's labours for the past ten years.
 How numerous, how varied they have been! How ready has
 he been to adopt every feasible plan for aiding the cause,
 - how indefatigable in bringing together people of A.S. tendencies,
 or sympathies, - how patient in removing impediments,

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 Miss W. J. Adams - W. J. Adams

Brown with us again. And right glad shall we
be to see him. We are prepared to see him,
intellectually, a head taller than when he went
to England. It has been an excellent school
for him, & I think we have evidence that he
has largely improved by it. —

4 Boston, Wednesday, Aug. 2^d. — It is nearly
time for the Steamer's mails to close, and
I have only time to add that we had a
most glorious meeting yesterday, at Abington
Physic. Conv., in honour of the 1st of
August — never a better. Rev. Mr.
Higginson, Wendell Phillips, Mr. Garrison,
Rev. Caleb Stetson, were the chief speakers.
— Mr. Garrison, who now sits by me, says
"Do give my love to her [to you], and tell
her that I mean that the next Western
Steamer shall carry from me an answer
to the beautiful letter she wrote me lately!" —

Anne Weston was at the Grove for an
hour or two, with her Aunt & brother. These
ladies are not able to bear the fatigues, &c. of
an out o' door meeting long; — they are very
exhausting to the physical man, certainly.

Mention was made of the 1st August

meeting at Manchester. — I hope we
shall have a good account of it. —

Wishing you all good things, which
the Kind Father of us all may please to
bestow on you in this world; and the
fullest peace and abundant consolation
to your father, — and, for us all, better
opportunities and better wills to serve
Him, whose service is perfect freedom
in the great future before us,

I am,

With the sincerest regard

Yours,

Samuel May, Jr.

felt that our Irish and English friends should know that our excellent brother Pillsbury's idea, respecting the Standard, as represented in friend Webb's letter, were not the views of the Executive Committee; and if they were to know it, we all equally felt they should know it at once. — From what Pillsbury wrote to Mr. Garrison, I now do not doubt that Mr. Webb attached ^{much greater} ~~too much~~ importance to some of P.'s remarks about the Standard, than he [P.P.] intended he should; and that his general views of that paper, & its importance to the cause, were not fully understood by Mr. Webb.

But this might have been said, & the mistake, both in Mr. W. & ourselves, corrected. ~~as that P.P. was~~ and no room would have remained for friend P. to make it out that he was a very ill-used person. Nothing could have been farther from my thought & heart than to impute anything, more than an erroneous opinion, to P. Pillsbury. He knows he has our deepest, fullest confidence. He did wrong to express the slightest doubt on that point, wrong to himself & to us. He is the last person to require us to express our confidence in words. He knows that we belong to a Society who judge a man's character by his deed, he appeals, himself, to that standard of character. What our confidence in him is, past history not present words must testify. Not even in words, ought he to have called our confidence in question. But all these errors, if they be such, are errors on the right side, and only go to show how truly & deeply our good friend P. loves the good old Cause.

For myself, I haven't the least hard thought toward
P. P. — . Whatever he said to R. D. W., or to any one
else in England or in America, of the Anti-slavery Cause,
I am perfectly sure he said conscientiously, and
according to his best judgment. And I freely own
that P. Pillsbury has a much better right to an opinion
respecting Anti-slavery measures than I have. He
is a much older soldier than I, — a much better one, —
(I say what I think & know), — has seen far harder
service, mingled with greater numbers and varieties
of people. Had my different ~~of~~ opinion been mine
alone, I probably should not have wasted much
time in writing objections to his opinions; but as ~~the~~
it was shared by every member of the Committee,
with a single exception, it seemed to be my duty to do
as I did. — I said, with a single exception; Francis
Jackson has thought for years that we were expending
too much money on the Standard, considering the
comparative smallness of its circulation. Looking at
it simply as an expenditure of means & money, he
thinks the Committee are unwise in sustaining
the Standard at its present cost. All the rest of
the Committee, whether in Boston, Philadelphia, or
New York, are of a different opinion. Comparatively
small as is the circulation of the Standard, they
believe it to be exerting, on friends and on foes,
a very salutary & important influence. The
circulation of over sixteen hundred Anti-slavery tracts
every week, in every part of the country, and

among those who are, to a considerable extent,
centres of thought & influence - tracts, too, of a
character so varied, & filled with the facts, the
arguments, & the appeals, absolutely indispensable for the
furtherance of our cause, - whereby we reach too,
every week, many places & many minds, ~~to~~ which our
lecturing Agents would rarely reach in person - this
alone, we think, would abundantly justify the degree
of expenditure to sustain the "Standard". It is more-
over the sign, to the world, of the existence of the
Amⁿ. A. S. Society; and, as Garrison most emphatically says,
Give up the Standard, and you may as well at once,
abandon the ^{American} Society, & give it over to its death.
With such arguments we reply to our noble friend
Jackson. His opinion & his views are worthy of the
heartiest consideration & regard. Could I surrender
my own convictions of what is best to any man
living, I could do so in favour of Francis Jackson
as freely & entirely as in the case of any man whatever.
How much I wish that you and your dear Father
could have come among us, & freely with us looked at
and pondered over all these things. - Would I
could minister to him in some of his sufferings,
in ^{some of} his hours of weariness and languor!

Mr. Pillsbury kindly sent to me today your
letter to her, containing having the view of Elvedon, & the
Cottage you occupied there. She is as true a woman,
I believe, as Parker is a true man, - simple in her

manners, - full of affection, - resolute & quiet in the discharge of duty. She is quite overcome with the (to her) astonishing friendliness and kindness which her husband has experienced, both at Dublin and at Bristol, & now, more recently, from Mr. Honey. It was a "wonder-working Providence", as she sees it, which led him to your door, - and so indeed it was. None can fail to see that

I am very glad that P.P. saw Mr. Grant, - And only wish he could have had the full strength to meet, & reply to, all Mr. G.'s views and inquiries - I recently had a very nice letter from Josephine Brown, W.M.B.'s daughter. Mr. Garrison was desirous to have it published, that I have put it in his hands for that purpose; indeed I greatly desired it myself, but felt doubtful how she would receive it.

This reminds me to say, that a message was recently sent to our Anti-Slavery Office by a merchant in the City (a Mr. Greely); that William W. Brown's free papers were now in his (G.'s) hands, and would be given up on the payment of \$300. If you can get this information to W.W.B., ~~where~~ he will doubtless be much obliged to you. Of late, I hear nothing from Wm. & Ellen Craft - I have numerous letters addressed to you by various English correspondents; some of them, by your direction, have gone to Philadelphia. - Are they to be returned to you? 'Tis midnight - and I must stop,

With ever affectionate regards to your Father,
I am, most truly & respectfully, Yours Saml May Jr